Nation

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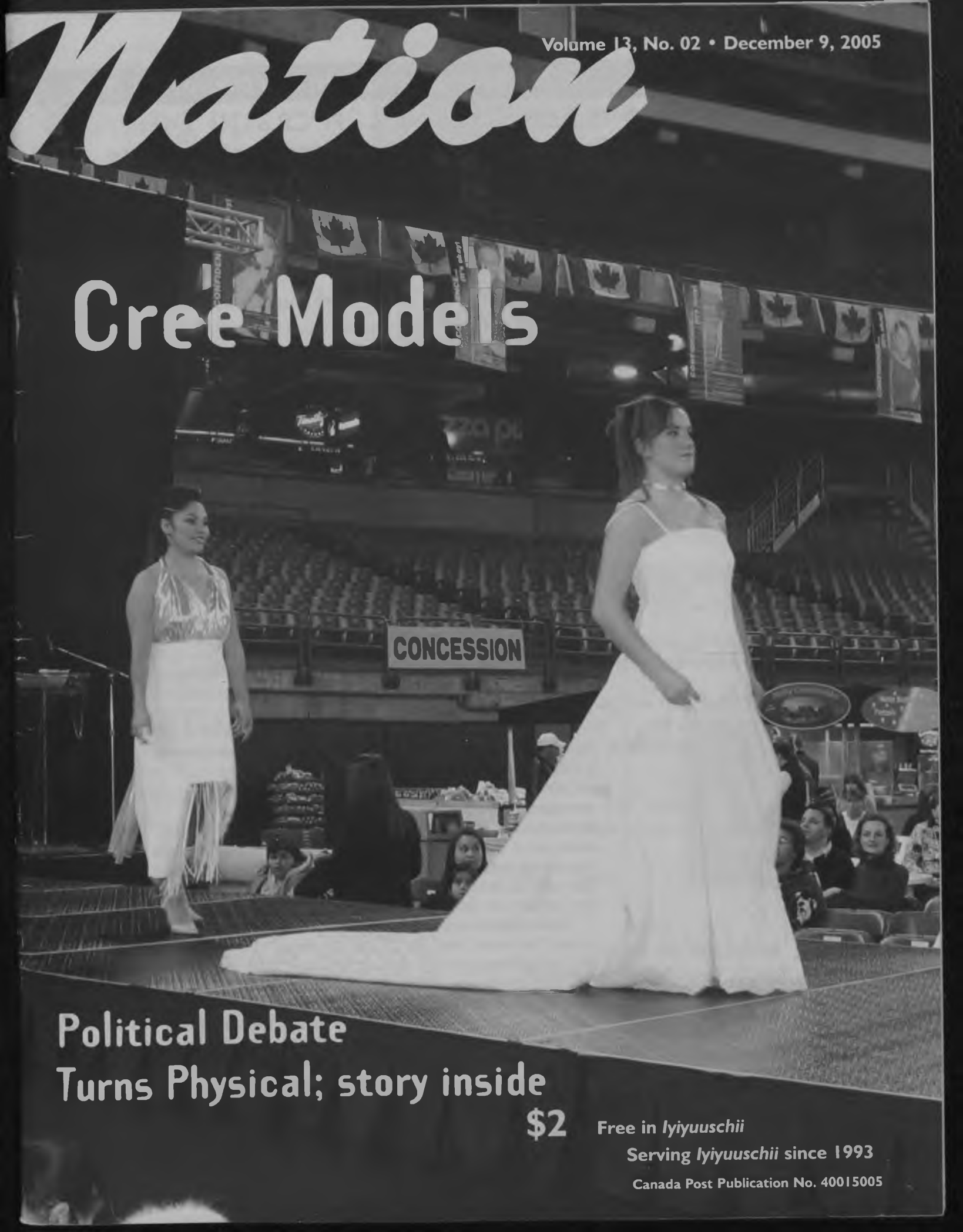
Cree Models



Political Debate Turns Physical; story inside

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A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ◆◆◆

ᓂᑐᐤᔨᐃᓐ ᑭᐦ ᐧᐃᑭᐤᐃᐧᐊᐧᐃᓐ ᐊ ᐁᐁᑭᑭᐤᑕᑭᓄᐦ

The Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay

ᒥᓂᐤᒃᓂᐧᐃᐦ ᑭᐦᐤ ᐊ ᐱᒥᐱᓕᐤᐊᑭᓂᐧᐃᓯ ᐅᑕᑦᓀᓕᐣᐠ

Don't drink and drive

One of life's worst nightmares is waking up and finding out...

- You were involved in a deadly motor vehicle crash
- You had consumed and used alcohol and/or drugs last night
- You were drunk and driving
- One of your friends died and two more are in critical condition

What are the consequences?

- You can lose your driving license and its privileges
- You can face criminal charges for driving under the influence (DUI)
- You can face criminal charges for the death of your passenger(s)
- You could go to jail for this crime
- You will have a criminal record
- This nightmare will haunt you - today, everyday and forever

Learn and practice the 5 key areas for effective interventions:

1. Speed – slow down!
2. Alcohol – don't drink alcohol and drive!
3. Seat belts – includes child restraints, strap in!
4. Helmets – wear helmets!
5. Visibility – see and be seen!

ᐊ ᑭᐣ ᑲ ᐊᐧᑎ ᓀᐦᐃᐧᐊᑦᓯᐧᐃᓐ, ᑲ ᐊᐧᑎ ᓀᐦᐃᐧᐊᑦᑕᐤ ᑭᐧᐃᑲᐦᐁᐧᐃᓐ, ᑭᑐᑕᑦᐣ, ᒃ ᐱᒋᐱᓵᐧᐃᑕᐤ ᐊᐧᐊᐧᑎ ᐯᐦ ᐁᐁᑭᑭᐤᑕᑭᓄᐦ, ᐊᑲᐦᐃ ᓂᐧᑕ ᒋᐧᒃᓂᐧᐃᐦ ᑭᐦᐤ ᐁᐁᑭᑭᐤᑕᑭᓄᐦ.

For the safety of yourself, your friends, relatives, passengers and other drivers – 'Never Drink Alcohol and Drive.'

ᐊᐧᑎ ᒪᐅᐣ ᑲᐧᒃᓂ ᓀᐣᐠ ᐊ ᐐᐦᑭᑭᐤᐃᐧᐊᑦᓯᐧᐃᓐᐣ, ᐊᐅᐨ ᐊᐧᑎ ᑲ ᐐᐦᑭᑭᐤᐃᐧᐊᑦᓯᐧᐃᓐᐣ:

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editorial

Growing up

By Raymond Menarick

President of James Bay Cree Communications Society

Photo courtesy JBCCS

At work, at the JBCCS

The James Bay Cree Communications Society (JBCCS) recently completed its 23rd Annual General Assembly in Oujé-Bougoumou. One of the items discussed was the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation – Northern Quebec Services (CBC) and its relation with the society.

JBCCS was incorporated in 1981 and its mandate was to provide communications services to the Crees of Eeyou Istchee. The first time it went on the air in Eeyou Istchee was in June of 1986 through the CBC. At that time, we had to prerecord our programs and send them via satellite to CBC in Montreal. CBC would then broadcast our programs through its Northern Quebec Services.

In 1998, the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Quebec. JBCCS received $525,000 for capital projects from this agreement. With this new funding, JBCCS was able to build its own network using telephone lines and also provide transmitters to some communities that did not have their own transmitters. JBCCS and local community radio were also able to transmit their programming throughout Eeyou Istchee with the new network. The network was officially opened with celebrations in August 2001 in Chisasibi.

During the 1980s, CBC installed TV and radio transmitters in northern communities with populations of 500 or more with the help of a federal government program. Communities, which included some Cree communities, had to incorporate communications committees in order to benefit from this federal program. Also, once incorporated, these groups were able to use the CBC transmitters to broadcast locally according to their schedules. This is the reason why some communities have CBC transmitters in their communities. The communities that do not have any CBC transmitters cannot benefit from this federal program since it no longer exists.

Since the implementation of the JBCCS network, local community radio stations have incorporated their schedules to include CBC programs in their daily broadcast. Also, all local radio stations including JBCCS have acquired unrestricted Native Type A broadcasting licenses. Recently, JBCCS board of directors decided and informed the CBC that they would no longer carry their broadcasts in their network, the main reason being the restrictions on the CBC's license and the CBC broadcasts during prime time. JBCCS has met with CBC management on these issues and were awaiting answers. Questions that we raised were never answered.

We were therefore very surprised at the reaction of the CBC when we informed them that we would no longer carry their broadcasts on our network. Listeners in Eeyou Istchee are aware that JBCCS started broadcasting its service during prime time hours when CBC used to be heard. It is regretful that we could not come to an agreement with the CBC regarding this matter. However, we are confident that we can provide a better service to the Cree communities.

The CBC has been very unprofessional, even suggesting that the local radio stations switch its broadcast during JBCCS broadcast times. Some communities are even considering purchasing new transmitters for the CBC. This is unacceptable since the CBC has a budget in the millions of dollars through the federal government. If CBC Northern Quebec Services really wants to be in all the communities, why doesn't purchase its own equipment?

JBCCS has been patient and tolerant on this issue. We are grateful for the assistance the CBC has provided to JBCCS and the local community radio stations in the past. However, it should be more professional in its actions and provide its own equipment in the communities it cannot be heard. JBCCS is pleased of its progress and the communications services it can provide to the Cree Nation are just beginning. Remember, it is our network.

Contents

editorial

Growing up 3

rez notes

Buck for a coffee? 4

news

Beating at l'Escale 5

Chisasibi Anglicans to ordain, Priests 7

In Brief 9

features

Cree models 10

Letters 16

Christmas roundup 19

Under the Northern Sky

The paths of our ancestors 25

on the cover

Photo: Emma Saganash

Design: Martin Dubé

rez notes

Buck for a coffee?

What are you drinking today? Water, blood and juice were the basic thirst quenchers for many pre-contact communities around here, with the notable exception of the occasional pot of Labrador tea.

Tea quickly gained a foothold in many a packsack, meechuwap and Hudson Bay Store in most of northern Canada. Tea is now a staple for Cree and northerners everywhere. In fact, tea was such a staple, it replaced food in many grumbling stomachs when famine occurred, something that is no longer a worry.

Looked at another way though, the foods we depended on in the past are not around enough to feed entire communities. Therefore, technically, we are in a natural food famine, depending only on stuff shipped from the south or other countries.

Since tea is the main topic here, the gradual change from tea to coffee is slowly causing severe caffeine addictions in many of our former tea sippers (since tea sippers were never really existent in Cree territory, as most people I have observed usually gulp down sixteen liquid ounces of the amber fluid in two seconds maximum with varying degrees of sweetness, lactase and temperature).

Times have changed since the so-called discovery of the New World 500 years ago. The people of Central and South America have something to offer that is now perking our palate to a spicier herb, stronger than that Asian beverage. Yes, I'm talking Java here. The red beans of Columbia, the dark bean of Nicaragua, the coffee-laden donkey of ages (Juan Calderon really knows his name). All these exotic brews now scent out homes with their early-morning, red-eye-opening odours. The happy glittering of grateful eyes reflect the true value of this imbiber's delight – a new reason to stop work and yap about nothing: coffee break.

As traditions go, nothing is as universal as a cup of tea to refresh one's soul. Increasingly, however, coffee is gaining grounds (pun intended) over the leaf of passion. Since smoking is often associated with caffeine and the smoke deemed more offending than the coffee, coffee break is taken outside, where chattering teeth deliver the latest gossip in between sips and puffs.

Many people I know still cherish the thirst quenching-abilities of the tea and gladly and quickly pass gallons of the ambrosia after a lengthy stay in the south, where strangely enough, no one has the standard 10 gallon pot ready to be replenished every few hours. The homes I know have tea abundantly displayed stove-top and is always ready, always. An empty pot of tea is embarrassing and the tea keeper is admonished with fervour from every one within yelling distance. Oh woe the one who keeps the tea pot full! 'Tis nothing but malady if the pot is empty, oh, woe the tea keeper!

Today, a cup of coffee is offered to guests and given the weather outside. Sometimes the china is saddled with an ashtray, but since we don't keep very busy with sweaty work like chopping wood, fetching water (for tea), running for miles behind a dog team or just visiting neighbours, we tend to choose the drink that keeps us awake enough to do the chores. Alas, another tradition falls to the almighty onslaught of trendier, hipper and supposedly happier addiction.

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Canada

Chief involved in brawl

Story By Steve Bonspiel Photo by Neil Diamond

Eastmain's newly elected Chief could be in serious trouble after being accused of attacking a Chisasibi man after a heated political discussion.

Eastmain Chief Lloyd Mayappo and Chisasibi resident Lindy Moar were having a lively political debate at the l'Escale Motel in Val d'Or November 25 when things got out of hand.

"We were talking about politics and he got pissed off with what I said and he punched me, just like that," said Moar, who suffered bruises all over his body and two black eyes. "I got up and I was going to leave and the others probably thought I was getting up to fight him and they all got up and jumped me."

Moar said he was attacked by Mayappo and an unidentified man and a woman.

"What he did to me is totally unacceptable, that's all I'm going to say," said Mayappo, who justified the first punch by saying that it was actually Moar who asked for it.

"He attacked me with very aggressive assaults verbally," Mayappo continued. "He called me an f-ing Chief and all that. He was looking for it, I just defended myself. He was drunk, if he was sober he wouldn't talk to me," said Mayappo who claimed to have had a few social drinks up until then but said he was not intoxicated.

Mayappo told *the Nation* that Moar targeted him because he is a supporter of the Paix des Braves Agreement.

"Just because I'm Chief, I got criticized by a Mukash supporter; that's not acceptable to me. Just because he knew I'm a Paix des Braves supporter, that's what I'm saying."

Moar didn't feel like talking about the incident too much. "I don't want you to talk about me in your paper. My lawyer told me to say that I don't want my story in *the Nation*," said Moar, who fears he'll become a target to those loyal to the Eastmain Chief.

"The crown prosecutor took my statement and Lloyd's and if I have a case I'll press charges and if I don't, what can I do?"

The Nation contacted the hotel, but they had little to say about the incident.

"There was no damage at all to the room," said Marc Antoine Trahan, the manager of l'Escale Motel. "There was clean-up required, but no material damage. I don't want to comment any further in case they plan to go to court."

The Sureté de Québec wasn't saying much either.

"There are no charges laid, but even if there were, I couldn't tell you that because it's not public information," said Sylvie Simoneau, a spokesperson for the SQ in Val d'Or. "I could tell you if he was (being) detained, but he's not."

Chief Lloyd Mayappo

Mayappo was asked whether this incident would affect his role as Chief if charges were pressed, he replied, "Not at all. I have rights and I was defending myself."

The Nation contacted the Cree-Naskapi Commission for their view on it all.

"It's clear in the Cree-Naskapi Act that you can't hold a position in office if you have an offense against you," said Brian Shawana of the Cree-Naskapi Commission. "To be eligible to run there are criteria that include not having a criminal record, however it doesn't pertain to an offense while in office. If he's found guilty it'll be up to the community to decide what to do."

Mayappo was asked who threw the first punch. "Verbally, he did. He was looking for it. He approached me in a very aggressive manner.

"I just want to ignore people that are ignorant. I have more important things to deal with," said Mayappo who added that he had never even spoken with Moar before.

Moar admitted to getting into an intense political discussion, but wondered about the Chief's motives.

"Does it give him the right to punch anybody?" he asked.

Sharpening the edge of excitement

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Healthy Living

Nourish the body and stimulate the senses with Healthy Living recipes!

Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.

Savoury Sweet and Sour Meatballs

1 1/4 lbs	ground beef	580g
1/4 cup	chopped onion	50ml
1/2 tsp	salt	2ml
1/8 tsp	pepper	.5ml
1 14 oz can	pineapple chunks (unsweetened juice)	420g
1/2 cup	water	125ml
2 tbsp	sodium-reduced soy sauce	30ml
2 tbsp	vinegar	30ml
2 tsp	cornstarch	10ml
1/2	large green bell pepper (cut into bite-size chunks)	
1/4 cup	sugar substitute	50ml

Directions

1. Preheat your oven to 350°F.
2. In a large bowl combine ground beef, onion, salt and pepper, mixing well. Shape into 1-inch meatballs. Lightly spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray and place the meatballs on the sheet, one inch apart. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes.
3. Once your meatballs are done, drain the pineapple juice into a saucepan, saving the pineapple for later. Add water, soy sauce and vinegar to the juice, stirring to mix. Add cornstarch, continuing to stir constantly until the mixture boils and thickens.
4. Stir in green peppers, pineapple and meatballs and simmer everything for five minutes. Stir in the sugar substitute and continue to simmer one minute more. Makes 4 servings.

TIP: Ground beef can be replaced with ground turkey, caribou, moose or deer. Adjust cooking times to compensate.

NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS PER SERVING (BEEF ONLY):

Calories: 426
Fat: 24g
Protein: 30g
Carbohydrates: 23g

Northern

Chisasibi Anglicans move to ordain Deacons, Priests

Congregation wants more Crees to run local church

By Steve Bonspiel

They just weren't going to wait any longer. A group of Chisasibi Anglicans hoping to see more Cree priests and deacons in their church is forcing the archbishop's hand.

"It's very important because it's been a long time since any native people have been through the process that we're going through right now," said Jimmy R. Fireman.

Fireman is a lay reader and treasurer for the Anglican Church. He says the push to get more Crees ordained is a way for locals to have a bigger say in church business.

The move started last winter when some of the locals started questioning the lack of ordained Cree deacons and priests. Many had been lay readers for years and they felt they were qualified to move up in the ranks, but didn't necessarily know how to go about it. They also wanted to sit on the various committees and have their voice heard.

Photo By Ernest Webb

Eliza Webb, who is hoping to be ordained as a deacon, kisses her grand daughter Jackie.

"Nobody really went after it," said Fireman. "The community always thought that in order to be ordained you have to go through four years of college and three years of seminary. In this case some of them have been working for the church for 40 years. We didn't think it'd happen soon."

There are three steps to the process. First, the vestry nominated four elders for priest, and two for deacon.

Once the community agreed on the nominations, the elders met with the Advisory Committee for Postulant Ordination (ACPO) to conduct interviews, look over letters of recommendation, and evaluate their qualifications.

When the rigorous process is through, the committee will either recommend or reject the candidates and then passes that along to Archbishop Caleb Lawrence.

Clifford Bearskin, Samuel Bearskin, Abraham Cox and Steven Pepabano were recommended by ACPO as priests. Eliza Webb and Annie Herodier were recommended by ACPO to be deacons.

"There were more Cree priests 25 or 30 years ago than there are today," said Douglas McNaughton, the coordinator of ministries for the church in Chisasibi. "That's the most wonderful thing about all the people here. Their spiritual faith is so incredibly strong it's affected generations and generations."

The shift from many Cree priests 30 years ago to "southern" priests came out of what the archbishop calls necessity.

"Look at the leadership in the community generally," said Archbishop Lawrence. "[Look at] the kind of Chiefs who were selected by the people. They were older, selected on the basis of the fact that they were good hunters, knew the land, were seen as upright honest people, and they knew their people.

"Then Hydro came into the north and I think that old-style leadership wasn't able to cope. They tended to go to younger leaders, people who didn't have the accumulated wisdom, but they understood how to negotiate with people of another culture."

The archbishop said that a changing northern scene made it necessary for the Cree priests to go through a foreign education system that stymied their growth.

"We wanted to train clergy that would be able to help the people from the north in their ever-changing world," he said. "The north was opening up."

However, a number of people sent out on training courses didn't complete them, the Archbishop noted. "We failed to recognize the cultural differences in these schools. Plus, there was family pressure that came with being far away from home."

continued on page 19

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Pepabano sentenced to 42 months in jail

Chisasibi resident Irene Pepabano has been sentenced to 42 months in jail for the July 2003 drunk-driving incident that took the lives of three of her passengers.

She was sentenced in Chisasibi November 25. Since she was not in custody at the time, the 42 months does not include time served.

Pepabano's sentence includes a prohibition on operating a vehicle for five years, which could be reduced to three years if she uses a breath analyzer, or interlock device, that can detect whether she has consumed alcohol.

Ottawa to give more money to residential school survivors

The federal government says it will spend up to $2 billion to compensate former residential school students.

"It is an agreement for the ages," said Phil Fontaine, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Fontaine was one of the first to go public years ago with his own story of sexual and physical abuse at the Fort Alexander School in Manitoba.

"No amount will ever heal the scars," Fontaine said, adding that he will pursue an official apology from Prime Minister Paul Martin – something that was not included in talks leading up to the deal.

The agreement, which must be approved by the courts, is open to more than 80,000 former students who can apply to receive $10,000 plus $3,000 for each year spent in residential school.

Also announced was a plan that candidates over age 65 can apply for a fast-track advance payment of $8,000.

Successful applicants should be able to receive payments within a year – possibly as early as six months – depending on how quickly the proposal is assessed in court.

The deal says those who take the compensation payments would release the government and the churches who ran the schools from further legal liability, except in cases of sexual assault or serious physical abuse.

In those cases, an improved out-of-court settlement process to be overseen by adjudicators "will become the exclusive vehicle by which that student could pursue a further claim," says the agreement.

Naskapi, Innu purchase railroad line

In an historic first, the Naskapi of Kawawachikamach and the Innu of Matimekush and Takuaikan Uashat mak Mani-Utenam have purchased a 217-kilometre portion of the Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway.

The group, called Tshiuetin Rail Transportation Inc., bought the 50-year-old rail service from The Iron Ore Co. of Canada for a dollar.

"I am pleased that the essential rail service between Sept-Îles and Schefferville will be maintained and will also create about 40 jobs and numerous business opportunities for members of our three First Nations people," Tshiuetin President Elie-Jacques Jourdain told the Montreal Gazette.

The line is used by the local Native population to reach their traditional hunting and trapping territory.

Ottawa to give much-needed cash to Aboriginals

In what is being touted as a way to improve the lives of Canada's Aboriginal people, Ottawa has ponied up $5 billion to take the first step.

The 19 delegations at the first ministers meeting on aboriginal issues in late November, hammered out agreements for federal investments in Aboriginal housing, education, economic development and improving accountability for government money spent on Natives.

Prime Minister Paul Martin was upbeat. "Tomorrow, we take another one (step) and another the day after that to walk along the path to building a better life for the First Nations, Inuit and Metis Nation," said Martin.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) was equally happy with promises to hold a national summit addressing the concerns of Native women, likely within the next six months.

Some details of the agreement include:

$1.8 billion to build First Nations-run school systems, improve services for aboriginals in the public school system and increase the number of bursaries, grants and scholarships for Natives attending post-secondary education;

$1.2 billion to address the aboriginal housing shortage through the creation of distinct housing authorities for First Nations, Metis and the Inuit and $400 million to put in place more quickly a national water strategy for aboriginals;

$200 million to shrink the unemployment rate among aboriginals through investment in economic development and reducing the barriers to aboriginal-run industry and commerce; and $170 million to boost accountability among aboriginal groups and improve the relationship between aboriginals and governments.

Provinces were reluctant to sign on to the federal health blueprint because it was unclear how much of the $1.3 billion would be dedicated to Aboriginals living on reserves versus those living off reserves, for example.

Provincial governments are wary of being stuck with the price tag for Aboriginals living in their cities, if the bulk of federal money is dedicated to First Nations groups living on federally run reserves.

Ottawa also promised to increase the number of health professionals on reserves to 1,200 nurses from 150 over 10 years, and targets were set to reduce infant mortality, youth suicide, childhood obesity and diabetes by 20 per cent in five years and by half within the next decade.

2005 Canadian Aboriginal Music Award Winners

•Best Female Artist: Tagaq
CD: Sinaa Nunavut
•Best Male Artist: Diga
CD: Earth Is Crying
Northwest Territories
•Best Producer/ Engineer:
Tagaq (Nunavut)
CD: Sinaa
Producer: Juan Hernandez
Engineer: Jose "Triki" Trincado
•Best Album
Design: Oscar Poza & Montse
CD: Sinaa Nunavut
•Best Inuit Cultural Album:
Beatrice Deer
CD: Just Bea Quebec
•Best Blues Album: The Wolfpack
CD: Family Thang Ontario
•Best Country Album: Hank Horton
CD: Honky Tonk Heartache Blues
Manitoba
•Best Hand Drum Album:
Northern Cree Singers
CD: Sweethearts Shuffle
Alberta
•Lifetime Contribution to
Aboriginal Music: Willie Dunn
•Music Industry Award:
Brian Wright-McLeod

Cree models a hit at Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards

By Steve Bonspiel Photos courtesy of Emma Saganash

Guess what Cree Nation? You're beautiful and you should flaunt it!

That's the message Whapmagoostui's Sarah Meloche-Masty is sending to people all over Eeyou Istchee after her first modeling shoot was a huge success in Toronto for the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards – held November 25-27.

"I didn't know what to expect," said Meloche-Masty of the event that was held at the Rogers Centre. "I thought it'd be easier, but it was hard work. I felt excited and I felt good about myself, it was just great."

Cree Models show their stuff including Sarah Meloche-Masty, second from left

In all, six Eenouch participated along with 30 other models from across Canada.

The almost-six-foot-tall Meloche-Masty said the preparation was hectic, but worth it. "You have to rush, you don't really have time to change. And you're in heels and it's really bad in heels," said the 16 year-old grade 10 student.

"I thought it was wonderful, fantastic," Meloche-Masty's mother Kathleen Meloche told *the Nation*. "It's something she's been looking forward to. She's been interested in the field for a long time," said Meloche who added that her daughter has been an extra in movies as well.

"It's important to say [that part of the show was] plus-sized modeling. If the girls out there don't feel they're magazine material, that shouldn't stop them. There are different kinds of magazines."

In August, Dave Jones of Native clothing company Turtle Concepts held workshops across Eeyou Istchee, looking for a few interesting models to work with. He asked Meloche-Masty if she'd be interested and she jumped at the chance.

"When I first met Dave I did an audition so he could see how I walked," she said. "He told me that a few agencies were looking for my look so I went to his workshop and on the last day I auditioned again. He told me that he wanted me to come to Toronto to do a fashion show, so of course I said yes!"

The workshops were set up to build confidence and to show Cree youth that anything is possible when they put their minds to it.

"This is something that's really good for her because she's outgoing but she does have a smidgen of shyness," said her mom.

While he was giving the workshops, Jones was constantly scouring the crowd to find his next model. He spotted Albert St. Pierre in Ouje-Bougoumou.

"I did workshops for youth this summer with Dave," said St. Pierre, 18. "We went to Fort Albany, Whapmagoostui and Detroit and met youth all over," said St. Pierre who was using the workshops to learn how to model and building up to the big gig at the Rogers Centre in Toronto.

"It felt good representing my community," he said. "I felt nervous, but at the end I got used to it. There were 5000 people staring at me."

St. Pierre was approached by an agent from Native Threads, another Native clothing company. He thinks that modeling is something he can get used to. "I say don't let opportunities pass you by because you never know what's going to happen."

His mother, Lisa Shecapio, was thrilled.

"This was my first time out to an event like this," she said. "It was overwhelming. It was awesome. I never knew we had so many Native designers."

continued on page 13

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Cree models a hit at Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards ***continued from page 10***

"The youth that were involved had so much confidence and we need more of that in our communities. They can do anything they put their minds to," she said.

Shecapio said she noticed a change in her son as well. "My son had a hard time in school, but when he went away this summer I could tell by his body language he was very different. He is looking forward to going back."

Shecapio hopes that the event has a snowball effect and encourages more youth to shine. "It was very emotional for me, because I know a lot of youth have a hard time in their communities so to actually see him up there...I can't describe it. I was crying."

The models' grueling two days consisted of getting up at six AM, getting to the Rogers Centre at seven, doing hair and makeup around nine and working into the early evening.

"When I was behind the curtain waiting for the runway I was nervous, but once I got out there, I was so focused," said Meloche-Masty.

"I want other girls to know that there's not just stick girls out there, there's plus-sized girls too," she said. "Don't follow those magazines because they're not real. It's just a look they're trying to give out and girls mistaken that. They take it seriously and there's bulimia and anorexia and you don't have to go like that. There's other ways you can pursue looks."

"There's not only one look or shape, there are all kinds of shapes and sizes and you've got to work with what you've got."

Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards performers

An awesome spectacle at 2005 Aboriginal Awards

by tsa

The Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards played to a proud and packed house in Toronto November 25. This was evident by the intensity that rippled through the audience when anyone spoke their native language – or when the hoop dancer did her thing, and flew like an eagle, prompting a spontaneous standing ovation.

The opening performance started with four fiddlers from across the country, including 16-year-old rising star Ryan D'aoust from Norway House, Manitoba, and fiddling master Donny Parenteau, whose fingers left smoke in their wake.

To the delight of the female fans, actor Adam Beach appeared on stage with a perma-grin and a faux-hawk, although he was seemingly at a loss for words. Not that anyone minded.

Inuit sensation Tagaq came out and did something with her voice that left everyone with mouths agape wondering what had just happened. It was throat singing to be sure, but sounded like a full band of 10! The sounds she emitted were similar to the heart thumping, back breaking beats of hip-hop, mixed in with a labyrinth of shorter, lighter, almost funny notes.

The song was apparently a work out, too, as she contorted her body in time with the beat and looked thoroughly spent after. Amongst the media on hand who were sharing observations, all one woman could say was, "I think we just saw something really special." Incidentally, Tagaq was the winner of three awards, including best female artist.

The festival, held at the Roger's Centre, just keeps growing, with more activities, more dancers, more performers, more food, more wares and more people. This year there was a whole week of festivities, including fashion shows, a comedy night, musical performances, round circles, dance shows, a book launch, and of course, the largest Pow Wow in Canada.

New to the Pow Wow were a gourmet native food area and an expanded children's area. The marketplace spilled over to the upper level of the centre, with booths running halfway round.

For this observer, it was truly a sight to behold from the upper level, looking out over all those people who were there to celebrate First Nations culture, to see new friends being made, and new bonds forged.

For the past 12 years, the festival has been held at Toronto's Rogers Centre, but now it will hit the road. Starting next year, the festival and awards show will be held in different cities across the country. The next stop is slated for Winnipeg the first week of November, 2006.

Cree communications faces challenges at AGA

Article and Photo By Will Nicholls

Finding new and stable sources of funding for Cree media in Eeyou Istchee was one of the many issues brought up November 22 in Ouje-Bougoumou at the Annual General Assembly of the James Bay Cree Communications Society.

The JBCCS name isn't one that will be around for much longer. At the AGA it was decided to change the name to Cree Eeyou Media to reflect the changes in the way the organization operates today compared to the past, said Raymond Menarick, president of the Society.

Menarick is from Chisasibi, the only community to have a twice-weekly Cree language television show. It is a point of pride for the community. He said the radio station announcers sometimes double as weather forecasters or announcers for the television show.

But most local communications in the Cree communities is radio-based and most of them want to extend their listening range.

"Trappers and hunters like to keep in touch," said Walter Hester from Waskaganish. "Radio is a community service and needs to be preserved."

JBCCS executive director Luke MacLeod promised several ways to make it happen. "It can be sharing job descriptions, policies or anything that makes use more efficient," MacLeod said. "If we do it then it is ours because it came from within. You could hire a lawyer or consultant to write something like policies but none of us will really understand it. So we won't use it but it could be used against us."

One problem involved power surges and blackouts. Whapmagoostui said they can't even phone out when the power is down. A few others admitted similar problems. This leaves a gap in the regional programming schedule. The schedule itself is still being worked out so everyone benefits.

It was agreed to look into a member's-only portion of the JBCCS website where such information could be looked at and exchanged.

"We all seem to have similar problems," Menarick said. "We need to work together on them. We can have a stronger voice together that way and we have more people to work on finding solutions."

Nemaska society member Kenneth Tanoush noted that funding comes mainly from gaming and the band council. "Let's start looking at a strategy for generating revenues," Tanoush suggested. "We're at risk with only a few sources of funding."

His concerns were echoed throughout the AGA. Many local communications organizations were run by the bands, under or getting out of trusteeship or had narrowly missed getting in trusteeship. For example, Wemindji almost went into trusteeship but managed to stay out of it and raise $10,000 to fight diabetes last Christmas.

It was found all radio stations need new equipment and facilities. The worst case being Whapmagoostui, whose tower nearly collapsed. Thanks to a technician hired by JBCCS it should be good for another year. Their building, though, is nearly impossible to heat.

Another complaint was that the Cree media is simply a training ground. "After a while trained workers go on to higher-paying jobs because they've learnt great communications skills," said Edward Georgekish.

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We sincerely thank you for your support during the past year and wish you every happiness for the holidays and the coming New Year.

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Residential Schools: Selling out for blankets and beads

I thought I would enlighten you regarding the residential school compensation deal.

I asked for an opinion on these matters, so read this and tell me what you think.

1. I don't like the deal because it doesn't take into account the subsequent generations who suffered at the hands of many of the survivors when they returned home. There was enormous and often violent sexual abuse, emotional, spiritual and mental abuses that have yet to be addressed. I also think that this deal opens the door for the subsequent generations to demand compensation from their abusers. This means the money the survivors, who have abused receive, will simply pass through their hands to the next generation. My firm belief is that the issue which needs to be addressed is cultural genocide. Residential schools were only one method of the government of Canada trying to achieve "extinguishment" and all Indian people have suffered in one form or another. Singling out residential school survivors gives the public the wrong impression that only one generation suffered these abuses. It all needs to be brought to the surface.

2. The deal is NOT enough. There is no amount of money that will ever compensate the victims for denial of language and of some very powerful ceremonies and cultural values. Further, for people to get the compensation, they will be required to sign a paper undertaking NOT to sue the government. There is a secret document floating around that is a legal opinion written by the Minister of Justice regarding the litigation in the courts by residential school survivors. His take on the whole thing is if a survivor succeeds in getting his/her case through to the Supreme Court, it is likely the Court will rule in favour of the survivor and the government may be forced to pay a sum of $10 million per survivor. So his recommendation to the government was to settle all these claims out of court and avoid a costly settlement. That is why this deal has been struck. That is why the government is willing to settle and why they offer the litigants cash settlements to drop their case. It is an insult, in knowing this, that Phil Fontaine, Charlene Belleau and AFN staff are willing to settle for so little. It is not enough in another way. Will the public get to know the truth of what happened to the victims? There is an agreement for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission but if it is run the way AFN runs other projects and the Healing Foundation the real stories will never come to light. The fact that there is also an agreement for the Healing Foundation to get a $125 million injection of money doesn't say how much of that will get to actual survivors. So far, they haven't managed the $350 million very well. It was supposed to be invested by the foundation so the fund would last in perpetuity but they spent it all and there is really no accountability to the survivors. It is extremely unfortunate that the leadership of the AFN doesn't keep on top of the internal workings of government that reveal how afraid they are of all this coming to light. I proposed to Phil Fontaine in 1990 that he make residential schools a public issue and he succeeded but the idea was to corner the government and get concessions because they really have no defense with respect to what they did in these schools. If the leadership were smart they should have demanded more for every Indian, Inuit and Metis person in Canada. Instead their petty little egos urged them to settle for a paltry beads and blankets. I think it is a travesty of justice and the government must be very happy.

I urgently hope the issue never comes to an end. If it does we are doomed to repeat it again and we must ensure the government is never taken off the hook. Every family should make sure the children are told the stories so we know our people have not suffered for nothing – that they will always be remembered. We should not cast blame but simply reveal the truth for posterity and to make real sure this never, ever happens to us again.

The government does not want to put out a real apology because, in law, an apology implies guilt and this will strengthen the hand of survivors who go to court. An apology will ensure the government will have to pay and they won't open that door. Even if they do apologize, they will qualify it so it is not really an apology. I don't want an apology. I want the government of Canada to take full responsibility for what it did to me and my family and to do it publicly for the world to hear.

Again, the AFN and the government of Canada did not give any consideration at all to the family support of survivors nor did they give any consideration to the following 40 to 50 years that the survivors had to live with their pain, suffer indignities, suffer their families and endure illness and sicknesses that can be attributed to the abuses heaped on the children. It does not address the abandonment, rejection, betrayals and alienation the students suffered at the school and when they returned to their home communities. Many became immigrants in the cities and lived on the streets. I think the grandchildren will still be suffering the after effects of residential school through what we call "neo-colonialism," which means, as Indian people, we are doing the government and churches jobs for them now by oppressing our own families and communities because of the training and conditioning we received in these schools. I'm hoping that all survivors focus on the psychological damage these schools inflicted and force the government of Canada to take responsibility for this legacy and that we force them to pay for the work that has to be done to correct it all.

Charles Esau

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Public Notice

Eastmain-1-A and Rupert Diversion Project
Quebec and Canada Deadline for Participant Funding Applications

Public Notice – On March 7, 2003, the governments of Canada and Quebec announced that a total of $400,000 is available to support public participation in the environmental assessments of the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project. In the first phase, $ 60,000 was allocated in the spring of 2003 to individuals and organizations to participate in consultations on the directives for the preparation of the environmental impact statement. In the second phase, $ 132 000 was allocated in the summer of 2004 to enable the public to participate in consultations on the conformity of the environmental impact statement.

Up to $ 208 000 will now be made available to enable the public to participate in the coming public hearings that will be held in the Cree communities of Chisasibi, Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish, Nemaska and Mistissini, as well as in Chibougamau and Montreal. The operational procedures for the public hearings were published by the review bodies on November 28, 2005. The dates and times for each session will be announced by the review bodies upon their completion of the conformity analysis of the environmental impact statement.

The public hearings will give interested individuals and organizations an opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of the project and its impact and discuss their analyses and viewpoints with the review bodies. The objective of the public hearings is to allow the review bodies, through direct discussion, to find out what members of the public think about the project and its impact, listen to their comments and discuss the various presentations with the participants. The public hearings will also give the proponents a chance to present their project and provide explanations and clarifications.

Applications for participant funding must be received by either government, or both, no later than January 11, 2006. In order to apply for funding, applicants should fill out and submit the appropriate form or forms.

A funding review committee will be established to review all requests for funding received under the federal and provincial programs. This committee will recommend the allocation of funds according to the eligibility criteria set out in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's Guide to the Participant Funding Program and according to the allocation criteria for the Funding Program of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs du Québec.

For more information about the province of Quebec's program or to obtain the appropriate forms, contact the Environmental Assessment Directorate of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs at (418) 521-3933 or at the following Web site address: www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca.

For more information about the federal program or to obtain the appropriate forms, contact the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency at (613) 957-0254 or at the following Web address: www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

Application forms for both programs are also available at the Public Information Office at 1-877-880-8378 or at the following Web address: www.bip-pio.qc.ca.

The review bodies will eventually decide if the information submitted by the proponents is consistent with the directives, transmitted by the federal Minister of the Environment and the Provincial Administrator, prior to hold public hearings.

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Christmas events 2005

Here are the events for the Christmas season. Some communities had not set dates for certain events therefore they are not published.

Waskaganish: The Elders luncheon will be held at the Kanio Kashee lodge on December 7 at 3PM.

The annual Christmas dinner, put on by the band council, will also be held at the Kanio Kashee lodge on December 8 at 6PM.

The Waskaganish Wellness Centre will be distributing Christmas baskets to elders and various families in the community.

Distribution will by starting December 21 and will be completed by December 23. In all, 185 baskets will be delivered for the holidays, each basket will contain a turkey, stuffing and groceries. Elders will receive fruitcake, jam and elders cookies as well. Certain baskets will include similac milk, diapers and fruit.

Eastmain: The Eastmain Wellness Centre will be giving out 10 food baskets this year. Baskets will include turkey, mashed potatoes and veggies. A special treat for children such as assorted pastries and Christmas candy will be included as well.

Donation boxes are set up at the fire hall, grocery store, northern store, band office, Stacey's sports and crafts and the wellness centre.

Some elders are cooking donuts, muffins and banana bread to help out. Christmas baskets will be delivered on December 9.

Neither the Christmas party nor the elders' luncheon was known at press time.

Whapmagoostui: Christmas dinner is on December 8 at 6PM at the youth centre.

The elder's luncheon had not been announced at press time.

Mistissini: Xmas Concert- Elementary and Secondary December 14th at the school

Wreath of Hope has been helping those in need for the past 18 years. The local grocery store Meechum has promised to match the first $5,000 dollars donated. This year's goal is to raise $20,000. You can check on the progress and to make your donations at Meechum's. The money goes towards Xmas baskets for needy families. An angel tree is at the store and when you pick an angel it has an age and says male or female on so you can buy a gift for someone who needs it. Angels created by the daycare children.

Nemaska: Xmas Concert- Elementary and Secondary December 14 at the school

OJ: Xmas Concert- Elementary and Secondary Week of December 12 at the school

Waswanipi: Xmas Concert- Elementary December 13 at 1:00 pm at the school Parents welcome as long they bring the Christmas spirit.

Grade Six English & French holding a flea market on Monday Dec. 12 at 6-9 pm. Rent a table for $20 and sell what you want: baked goods, arts and crafts, yard sale items, etc. Just the place for some last minute shopping.

Wreath of Hope

Chisasibi Anglicans move to ordain Deacons, Priests ***continued from page 7***

In this case, the elders will be working part time and won't have to attend classes. They will be using their decades of knowledge and some extra training from the church. The church is hoping that seeing Cree faces in higher positions will encourage the youth to strive for those positions – albeit through academic channels.

"We see this as being a team of deacons and priests and don't see it as full time for any of them," said Archbishop Lawrence. "Most of these people are already in their retirement years. Hopefully it won't take more of their time than they are presently giving."

Jimmy Fireman agreed. "It's important for the younger people to come in and see that they can be ordained," said Fireman. "This is the first time the process is being done. These people are leading the way. It's like an icebreaker. It'll help the diocese to know how to go about it in the other communities."

The ordainment has far-reaching implications for the community.

"Now we won't have to wait for priests to come in from other communities," said Fireman. "Right now we have to wait for ordained priests to come around for baptisms, weddings, etc. All they need is the training and the license to perform those ceremonies."

They are also hoping to eventually create an Eeyou diocese; separate from the Moosonee diocese that Chisasibi currently falls under.

"The elders in Chisasibi have been promised the church for many years," said McNaughton. "They've requested that the bishop put them on the executive and financial committees on a regional level [for the operation of the church]."

McNaughton observed that an Eeyou diocese may not happen tomorrow, but he is confident that with enough Cree deacons and priests, a Cree bishop may not be far behind.

According to McNaughton, the vocational deaconates are ordained and can do the tasks a priest can do, but they're not responsible for the financial aspects or other things that go on in the community. The priest is in charge of Sunday school, and training of the Sunday school teachers, and lay readers, amongst many other responsibilities.

McNaughton likes the idea of an Eeyou church for the Eeyouch. "Their authority has been usurped by the dominant culture. It's only now that they are taking that responsibility back through the church."

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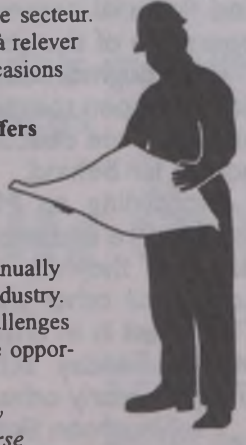

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

The paths of our ancestors

by Xavier Kataquapit

My people on the James Bay coast have only been using motorized transportation for a few decades. A generation before mine, people had to use their own energy to get around on the land. It was luxury to own a team of dogs to pull a sled over the snow and ice in the wintertime. Even though this must have been a difficult task for everyone, it was considered normal. Getting to a destination took some time, but everyone eventually made it to where they wanted to go.

Surprisingly, there still exist many of the trail systems that were established by our ancestors who walked, snow-shoed or went by dog sled all along the James Bay coast. These are road systems that have been around for hundreds or even thousands of years. People have been using these networks for generations to get to traditional lands, hunting grounds and fishing areas.

I have had the opportunity to travel some of these ancient trails first hand while on traditional hunting trips with my family. The trails are actually kept up with use by hunters and gatherers when they are out on the land. When we travel north along the coast, there are several options to get to any destination. At the coldest times of the year, everyone uses an inland trail system that winds along the very edge of the tree line.

These days, snowmobiles are used. At different points, the trail heads into the forest here and there as a means to protect the traveller from blowing winds and cold weather. In the spring thaw, travellers move further out onto the tundra flatland of the James Bay shore to take advantage of the last remnants of ice and snow.

One year I went along with my family on a trip to the Lakitusaki River or Lake River in Polar Provincial Park to prepare for the spring goose hunt. We left during March on one of the coldest days of the year to cover a difficult six-hour journey with several snowmobiles. We sped away from home on a trail leading onto a lake north of our community, then onto a well-established trail leading northeast to get onto the James Bay shore. This route has always been used by everyone in Attawapiskat to travel to hunting and traditional grounds north of the community.

We stopped at Lake River for a week and stayed in the remains of the old Hudson's Bay building. Lake River was once actually a thriving community and an important trading post. Even today you can still see a Catholic church, the remains of several houses and of course the store. The long-abandoned settlement is visited by traditional hunters and trappers who stay in the area at different times of the year. Often local Elders who once called Lake River home return for a visit.

During our stay, we explored the river to fetch water to drink and wood for our stove. Dad took this opportunity to show us some old trails. I think my brothers had the same thoughts as I did as we rode our snowmobiles on the ice of Lake River. We thought of dad's descriptions of one of the trails but could not figure out where they would be as the forest on the banks looked the same everywhere. Dad stopped several times to drive his snowmobile into the immediate brush to search for the trail. We followed and after several tries, we finally found what we were looking for. It was just a clearing in the woods leading north onto a muskeg flat.

As we followed the route, it seemed to disappear then reappear again as it cut through forested areas and then drifted back onto the flat muskeg and tundra. Dad was using his boyhood memories to find this ancient trail. This was a trail leading to trapping grounds north of the river and many hunters, trappers and travellers had passed by this way before. I imagined dark figures covered in layers of clothes, their faces buried in furs to keep the cold away, walking on snowshoes over the deep snow and pulling sleds of supplies to make it to the next shelter. Back then, this trail would have been a road of life or death, as no one had the safety net of a snowmobile, an emergency rescue team or any kind of assistance from the outside world.

I can imagine the importance of these simple trails back then. Many of the modern snowmobile trails on the James Bay coast were actually once walking routes used by my people. They lead to all our important traditional areas and hunting grounds. I have talked to many Elders who described their travels on the land. Although they enjoyed those times they also felt that the risks were great and the life very hard.

As much as our Elders love the traditional ways it makes them happy that today we can speed along on snowmobiles to the places they hold sacred. The traditional hunters and trappers deeply appreciate the network of roads in the wilderness as their parents, grandparents and ancestors used these routes to survive on the land. It is special to know that we will never be lost as long as we continue to walk or ride in the paths of our ancestors.

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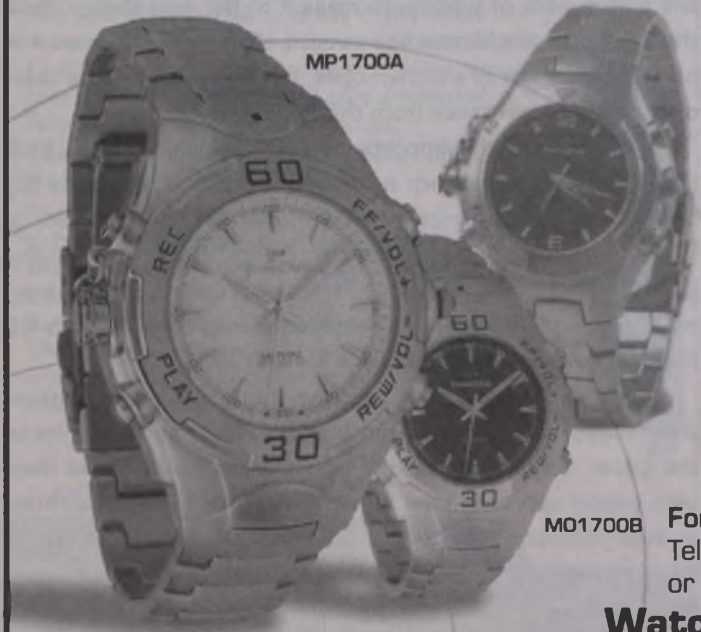

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BIRTHS – 100

We would like to congratulate Melanie Matches and David Natawapineskum Jr. on the birth of their baby girl, Cassandra Kareena Melina Helen Dawn, born on November 9, 2005, at 2:03am. Take good care of your little angel. Love from Mom, Dad, Colleen, and Karlee.

I would like to congratulate my brother, David Natawapineskum Jr. and his girlfriend Melanie Matches on the safe arrival of their baby girl, Cassandra Kareena Melina Helen Dawn on November 9, 2005 at 2:03am weighing 9lbs,10oz in Val-d'Or. Jr, there are not enough words in the world to express how deeply honored and thankful I am that you have asked me to be the Godmother of our little angel. I so cannot wait till the moment when I first hold her in my arms when I come home for xmas. It will be one of the greatest gifts I could receive this year. From a proud auntie in Gatineau, A.N.

BIRTHDAYS – 101

Sending belated Birthday wishes to our Mom/Grandma Madeline Matthew, her birthday was on the 22nd of Nov...Better late then never naah?..Thank you for everything you've done for our lil family...I especially want to thank you for being there when I need you the most mom...Hope your Birthday was as wonderful as you are and may you have many more...We love you and miss you so much...With love from Alice, Joe, Tyson-John and Alyssa-Jolynn (Mist).

We would like to wish John Snowboy a belated Happy Birthday and many more. His birthday was on Nov.23. Hope you enjoyed your special day...From Tyson-John and Alyssa-Jolynn (Mist).

Happy Birthday to Alexandra Napash on December 1, have a nice Birthday and many more to come. From Christopher, not daddy, the other one. xoxoxoxoxo

On December 13, a very special and beautiful woman will be celebrating her birthday. To my mom Janie Mattawashish. (Janie T.Mattawashish). Mom, I just wanted to wish you a happy birthday and let you know that I am thinking of you on your special day. I hope dad will make "cornflakes" for you! Thank you mom for always being there for me. You're the greatest and truly the best in the world. I love you. Happy bithday and many more white hairs to come. Love always Ali.

Happy birthday to my sister Candice on Nov.29! Hey sis, just wanted to wish you a happy birthday. Okey-dokey? Enjoy your birthday being "boodoo" I love you. And Johnny, take care of my sister. Ehgudeh. Love always Ali.

I would like to wish my WONDERFUL boyfriend Jeremiah Shecapio-Blacksmith a happy birthday on Nov.20! No words can describe the love I have for you. Thanks for always being there for me. I love you. Enjoy your birthday! Yours forever Ali PS: CADAMADARADA.

I would like to say Happy Belated Birthday to my mom, Sandra Hughboy. Her birthday was on November 15. Mom, I miss you so much. I love you with my whole heart. I'm sorry for every pain I caused you. I know I'm not a perfect daughter but my love for you is perfect. There is not a day goes by that I don't think of you and of course, daddy my bros and my sis too. I love you all! I can't wait to see you guys. Nii Kerri-Ann.

This goes out to my terrific uncle Marcus Weistche who is in Sudbury. I want to wish him a happy birthday on the 21st of December. Have a wonderful time on your bithday and many more to come. From your nephew, Brayden Jayson Moar-Weistche.

A 1st Birthday going out to Stormie Diamond. Happy Birthday Stormie. I love you, hope you have a fun! on your Birthday, Love your cousin Tj (Terrell).

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Happy Belated Birthday to my sister, Victoria Wischee, on November 17th. Hope you had a blast.....LOL & Many more to come! With love from, Shirley.

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to our special daughter Jaralyn Frank, on December 10 2005. We still remember the day you were born. You were such a tiny baby and look at you now, growing so fast into a pretty young lady. I hope you enjoy your special day. With lots of love and kisses, Fr Mom and Dad.

I just want the whole Cree Nation to know my little bro #66 Marcus Weistche will be celebrating his 9th birhday in Sudbury Ont., on the 21st of December. Hope you have a blast on your birthday make sure you don't get into trouble. Be nice now and score a lot of goals for me and Braydens... Once again Happy birthday young man and many more to come... From your big bro Randy Weistche.

We would like to wish Austin Mist a HAPPY BELATED 8th BIRTHDAY on Nov 12,05. We love you. With love fr. everyone at 9 Ratt,10 bush and at 7 paint hills in Wemindji.

Attention! Attention! Everyone guess who's celebrating her birthday on December 10, 2005. My little sister, Jaralyn Lizzie-Ann Frank. I hope you had a blast on your special day. Hope you had what you wanted for your birthday! Once again Happy birthday and many more to come..Love always your sis Sheena Moar.

I would like to wish my special little auntie a Happy birthday on December 10, 2005. Jaralyn Frank I hope you have a wonderful time on your special day. Once again Happy birthday and many more to come...hugs and kisses, from your little nephew, Brayden Moar-Weistche..XOX.

We would like to wish our daughter, Billie Mistacheesick, a Happy 1st Birthday on Dec 10, 2005. Seems only yesterday that you were born. Look at you now, your crawling around and soon you will be learning to walk. You're an angel and a blessing from above. No one on earth could be sweeter than you. Thanks for warming our hearts

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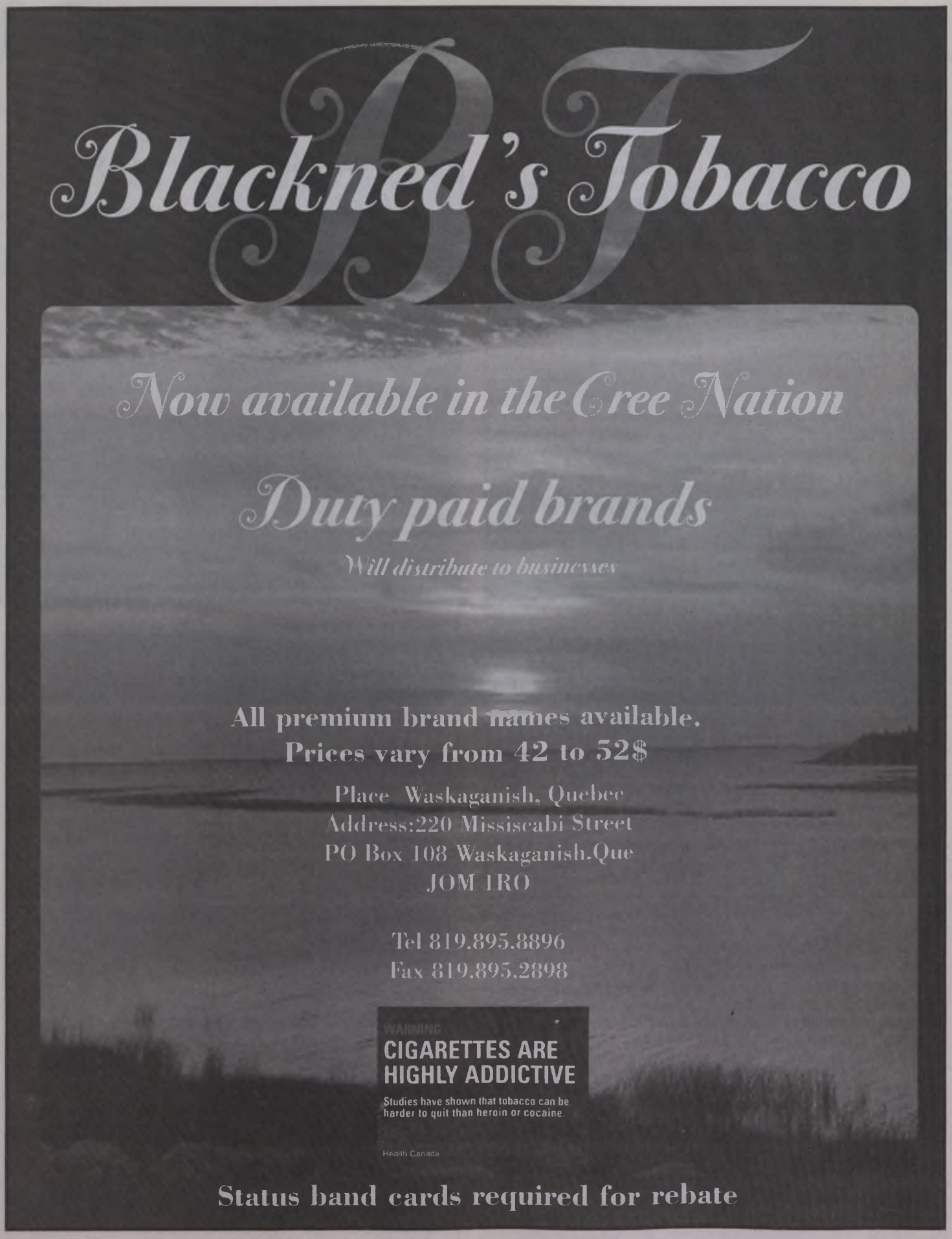
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with each cute thing you do. With love & kisses fr. Mom & Dad. HAPPY 1st BIRTHDAY BABY !!

I would like to wish my one and only sister Billie Precious Isabel Mistacheesick a HAPPY 1st BIRTHDAY on Dec 10, 2005. Can't wait to see you blow out your 1st candle and having your 1st cake. Love always your sister Cherish Mist.

A birthday prayer for our daughter, Mel: "May God bless you with everything that is good and wonderful, with daily strength and everlasting joys and may He keep you safe and protect you in your goings and comings, and may you be kept for every special thing He desires to bring into your life. May He always smile upon you and may His presence be your daily reward. May you be blessed with the beauty of His grace and may His favor be over you and upon you. May His peace fill your life and guard your heart and may His love keep you in all your ways." With love to you, and for you on your 15th birthday. Mom and Dad.

I want to wish my cousin Melanie Longchap and her daughter Amira a happy birthday in October 2005! I just want to tell you that I love you both very much, you are a blessing to be part of my life as a family. I pray God will bless your days and for many years to come! Keep up the good work and be strong and courageous in all you do, for "I AM" (God) is with you :) Much love, Jeannette xxx

I want to wish my grandmother Hattie Longchap from Mistissini a very Happy Birthday on Oct 13, 2005. Gookum I cannot begin to tell you how God has his hands on you, his grace was on you, and gave you life for 78 years. God not only blessed your life but all these years he has been a provider for your every need. He showed me by looking at you to never doubt him, I thank god everyday for your life, its a great honor to be your grandaughter & I thank you from the heart for sowing in me what God did in your life, I thank you for your many prayers. I know that God is very pleased with your faithfulness despite your tribulations, he was always with you and he honors your prayers and the verse Matthew 21:22 was accomplished many times in your life, he kept his promises! I thank God, for you are a great blessing in my life. I love you gookum! Jeannette (Montreal) xxxxx

Ok, here it goes...I would just like to wish my little cousin CHERYL DANYLUK a happy 9th birthday on the 28th of November, it probably already passed by the time the new Nation comes out, sooo...HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY MY GIRL!!!...I Love ya kid! and I hope you have, I mean had, tons of fun way up north. I'll see ya soon and take good care of everyone. Keep smiling. Cassandra Dee

We would like to say happy belated b/day to my uncle & brother Mark-Paul C, on Nov. 23/05, FR: your nephew Lylie & your sister Shirley. Iwould like to say happy 1st belated birthday to my son, Lylie Poucachiche on Nov 24/05. Love always, Mom Shirley (in Chis).

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our special cousin, Tristan Emerson Martin Voyageur. His special day is on December 15..ur getting old now cuz..I wonder who's gonna be a lucky girl..lol...remeber I'm always there for you if you wanna talk..we love you with all our heart's from your cousins from Waapstan girls.

A birthday wish going out to my beautiful cousin Celeste on Dec.6 who will be turning 18! HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Blow each candle one by one so you'll have 18 wishes... lol! Give me a call sometimes, I miss you and have a great day! From your favourite cousin Rosanna Matoush.

We would like to wish a happy 12th birthday to Laurina Jolly-Salt in OJAY.

From Khaydon and all of his family. Merry Christmas to all. It is not what you receive on Christmas Day but what you can give. The most precious gift you can give is love. For things can be broken or lost but not love. Love can be treasured forever. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of the Cree nation and our neighboring friends for their love, support and prayers.

She`ll be celebrating her birthday on December 3.Hope you have fun on your special day. Many more birthdays to come. From all of us at 41 smokey hill street in Waskaganish, Qc. Grandpa Andrew, Grandma Hilda, Uncles Rennie n Elmer, Aunty Pierrette, n ur cousins Myra n Merielle.....Hope to see you soon.

Birthday wish going out to my sister Winnie Iserhoff on Dec. 6/05. Happy Birthday sis and many more to come, Thanx for everything sis and I love u so much, by the way, I'll come to ur place whenever Abi's cat disappears, LOL...Bella (Mist).

A "very special" Happy 24th Birthday going out to my first bom son, Kelson Martin, on the 30th of November, who's hard at work in Waswanipi. Remember, I love you very much and that I miss you terribly every day!! I cherish the moments we get to spend together whenever you come to town. I wish you were working and living here. But no matter how many miles we're apart, you are never far from my heart and soul, always in my mind. Enjoy your special day to the fullest, my son!!! Once again, happy birthday and many, many more to come!!! Love always, MOM.

On December 5th, 2005, my one and only beautiful daughter SABRINA MARK, turns 28 years old! My, how times flies, my girl!!! Seems like yesterday when I first held you in my arms, my heart overflowing with great love, thinking "my own little girl to love and cherish". You are the angel God sent to me and my "little" angel-girl you always will be! "Happy Birthday" (Sabrina Lynn Mark, bologne-cheese, remember?!) and take very good care of yourself. From your mom who loves you dearly, Flora.

We wanna wish our Beautiful Baby Girl Tianna-Love Hughboy a happy 1st birthday on November 16, 2005. Daddy is sorry that He can't make it to Your first birthday party cuz you know he's gone to Nicolet for the police course, but his heart is always with you and he knows that you always call out "Daddy" every morning- We can't wait to see you blow out your first candle and your big brother Curtis will be standing right beside you as he always does. And Curtis...Mommy thanks you for being there for your sister during her sick days cheering her up. Our love tor you kids grows everyday. Happy Birthday Baby Girl!!! With lots of love: Your parents (Darryl & Karen) and ur big bro Curtis Bosum

We wanna wish a Happy Birthday to our Auntie and Godmother, Emily Frances Bosum Diamond on November 24, 2005. May your day be as special as you are, because you are special to us and we love you. With lots of love: your Goddaughter, Tianna-Love and your son wannabe, Curtis Bosum.

PERSONAL – 300

The players of the Rupert River Wind team wish to congratulate the Mistissini Trappers for their A Class Championship victory at the Ouje-Bougoumou Senior Hockey Tournament. However, since the Trappers have not attended the Waskaganish Senior Hockey Tournament in the last five years, the players of the Wind and the community of Waskaganish would love to see the Trappers participate in the upcoming tournament to be held next January in Waskaganish.

Do you want to be on TV? Do you like performing? Rezolution Pictures is returning to Mistissini. Filming for the #1 rated show for APTN, Dab Iyiyuu, Season 3 begins.... Casting starts Dec. 5th and filming will be completed by Dec 21st. We are looking for actors and extras, male and female, of ALL ages, no experience necessary. Interested in photography, lighting, and working behind the scenes? We are looking for volunteers who want to learn. Interested in Costume design, Art, Hair and Make-up, volunteers are also wanted... Call or email today! Phone: (418)-923-3187 Contact: Neil or Gabriel Email: dabfilms@gmail.com

Single Native Male (30 years olds) seeking single Native Female (21-33 years old) for dating or more. Spiritually minded. Montreal,and surrounding areas. Beautifullake@rock.com

A message going out to a special man, Real Brazeau whom I met Nov. 21/04 a year ago. What can I say , there is so much about you. I want you to see what you mean to me and why I Luv you so. Can't describe how much I luv you. It is not so long ago. It came to my mind that I never met a person like you. I am going to speak what my heart wants you to know. Today is the perfect time to tell you how much you mean to me. You treat me the way I should be treated and made me realize who I am and accept me the way I am. It is you who helped me quit drinking and smoking and just take care of my kids. You're everything I've wished for and I could never wish for more. You brighten up my days in your own way. You are so kind and loving person, but one thing thought you like to lie. but that's okay I'm still gonna luv ya! Nobody is as special as you are, you're the greatest! When I am with you there is no place I want to be. My luv for you has grown thru the days. There is a special place in my heart that only you could touch it. The way we luv each other makes it hard to be apart. So, when I can't hold you in my arms. I hold you in my heart. Most of all I thank you for being there when my daddy left me. You were the one who told me the message and you were there all the way. I Luv you for that baby, yes I do. When I need someone or need a shoulder to cry on, you're there, I know you'll understand. I thank you that you are always there for my kids, you treat them like your own and never complain. I luv your beautiful kids too. All the kids and my family really luv your cooking. I remember when I first met you, my heart was already broken into pieces very- fragile! You took the pieces and tried to fix it I was so afraid that it might be broken again Day by day you puzzled up my broken pieces. Don't know how to thank you, but you really changed my life, can't imagine a day without your light. I am so honored that I met you. So, Real I celebrate my love for you. Grateful that we have the happiness life gives to just a few. I need nothing more from you than always be mine, and the promise of your luv until the end of time. I Luv you mon Real xxxx

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call the Kid's Help Phone's toll-free number, at: 1-

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS – 400

800-668-6868 or check out their website at: www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca.

Your travel choice!

Professionalism, discretion and reliability.

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For reservations, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567
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IMPORTANT NOTICE
TO ALL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS

Last week, on November 23rd, there was an announcement that an A.I.P. had been signed between the Government of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations concerning the payment of compensation to residential school survivors. This A.I.P. provides for several things including a lump sum payment to every residential school survivor of $10,000. for the first year he/she was in school, and $3,000. for each year, or part of a year, after that.

However, it is important to understand that an A.I.P. is only an Agreement in Principle – it is **NOT** a final agreement.

FOR MOST SURVIVORS, NO PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE UNTIL AT LEAST JANUARY 2007 – 14 MONTHS FROM NOW.

This is because there is still no final agreement. If all goes well, there may be a final agreement by the end of January 2006. However, the way in which the agreement will be implemented is by settlement of a class action lawsuit. This will be a long and complex process which will take almost a year.

THIS IS WHY, FOR MOST SURVIVORS, THERE WILL BE NO PAYMENT UNTIL JANUARY 2007 AT THE EARLIEST.

There will be an advance payment of $8000.00 to residential school survivors who were 65 years old on May 30, 2005. This payment will probably be made sometime in the spring of 2006, but the timing is not yet certain.

We will be sending you more information coming in the next few weeks. In the meantime, it is important that you do **NOT** make plans to spend the money you think you will receive because most people will not be receiving it for at least 14 months.

Survivors do not need to hire a lawyer to receive the monetary compensation. If you have hired a lawyer you will have to pay the lawyer from your compensation amount.